

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 AGR-10 INT-05 OES-06 AID-05

CIAE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00

XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

PA-02 PRS-01 /127 W

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R 271611Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6889

INFO USDOC WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS MOSCOW 11865

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, UR

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL DATA ON USSR 1976 PLAN RESULTS

REF: MOSCOW 11221

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: RECENTLY PUBLISHED DETAILED SIX MONTH PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR 1976 SHOW PERFORMANCE GENERALLY EXCEEDED MODEST TARGETS BUT WITH CONTINUED UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT IN MANY SECTORS INCLUDING MINERAL FERTILIZERS, DAIRY AND MEAT PRODUCTS, TIMBER AND PAPER PRODUCTS, AMONG OTHERS. FOREIGN TRADE TURNOVERS GREW BY ELEVEN PERCENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRAL PRESS ON JULY 24-25 PUBLISHED DETAILED SIX MONTH PRODUCTION DATA FOLLOWING PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED OVERALL RESULTS, (REFTEL). MOST INTERESTING ITEMS NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED INCLUDE FOLLOWING.

3. GROUP "A" PRODUCTION INCREASED BY SIX PERCENT,
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WITHIN WHICH MACHINE BUILDING AND METALWORKING ROSE BY TEN

PERCENT, AND ELECTRIC POWER AND CHEMICAL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY BY SEVEN PERCENT. GROUP "B" OUTPUT ROSE BY THREE PERCENT. THREE FOURTHS OF THE GROWTH IN OUTPUT RESULTED FROM INCREASED LABOR PRODUCTIVITY.

4. DESPIE THE FACT THAT ALL INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES OVERFUL-FILLED THEIR PLAN TARGETS, ACCORDING TO PRAVDA ON JULY 24, SPECIFIC TARGETS FOR PRODUCTION OF THE FOLLOWING GOODS WERE NOT MET: MINERAL FERTILIZER, SULFURIC ACID, FORGE-PRESS EQUIPMENT, FREIGHT CARS, COMMERCIAL TIMBER, CEMENT, CERTAIN TYPES OF PAPER, CLOTH, KNITTED FABRICS, AND OTHERS. A NUMBER OF PRODUCTION ASSOCIATIONS AND ENTERPRISES DID NOT FULFILL THEIR TARGETS FOR PRODUCTION, LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND ACCUMULATION. AND IN CERTAIN CASES, THE OUT-PUT OF GOODS WAS NOT IN THE REQUIRED ASSORTMENT AND THE PRODUCTS DID NOT MEET QUALITY STANDARDS.

5. PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON JULY 25 COMMENTED FURTHER THAT "MUCH REMAINS TO BE DESIRED" IN IMPLEMENTATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL OF PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. AND THE CONSTRUCTION PLAN WAS NOT "COMPLETELY" FULFILLED AS FIVE OF NINE MINISTRIES INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION DID NOT MEET THEIR TARGETS FOR CONTRACT WORK. STATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT TOTALLED 43.9 BILLION RUBLES, SIX PERCENT MORE THAN IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1975, BUT THIS LEVEL REPRESENTED ONLY 96 PERCENT OF THE PLAN TARGET.

6. AS EXPECTED, MOST STRIKING SHORTCOMINGS WERE IN PRODUC-TION OF MEAT AND DAIRY, AS WELL AS OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS, SEE SEPTEL.

7. RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER IN THE STATE AND COOPERATIVE SECTORS WAS 105.1 BILLION RUBLES, AN INCREASE OF 4.8 PERCENT OVER THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF LAST YEAR. NONETHELESS, ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, THE INCREASING CONSUMER DEMAND FOR CERTAIN GOODS WAS "NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED."

8. FOREIGN TRADE TURNOVER IN THE PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 28 BILLION RUBLES, AN ELEVEN PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. THIS LEVEL, WHILE STILL HIGH, IS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE 28 PERCENT INCREASE FOR ALL OF LAST YEAR.

9. USSR POPULATION ON JULY 1, 1976 WAS 256. 7 MILLION PEOPLE. COMMENT: THE DETAILED DATA PRODUCED FEW SURPRISES BUT DID DOCUMENT THE POOR FOOD PRODUCTION SITUATION. UNEVEN PER-FORMANCE REMAINS THE BYWORD IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ALTHOUGH THE PRESS, AS EXPECTED, SOUGHT MAXIMUM MILAGE OUT OF THE OVERFULFILLMENT OF THE MODEST PLAN TARGETS. CHEMICAL

INDUSTRY'S CONTINUED PROBLEMS IN OUTPUT OF MINERAL FERTILIZER
AND OTHER PRODUCTS ARE NOTEWORTHY. ALSO, FOREIGN TRADE
TURNOVER GENERALLY INCREASES IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, PRODUCTION DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW11865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760289-1019
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760718/aaaaapma.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 11221
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL DATA ON USSR 1976 PLAN RESULTS
TAGS: ECON, EGEN, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006